

POTATO STOCKS**Released: February 15, 2006****MINNESOTA POTATO STOCKS 12% BELOW 2005 LEVEL**

February 1 Stocks: Minnesota's fall potatoes in storage totaled 9.0 million hundredweight, 12 percent below the February 1, 2005 level, according to the USDA, NASS, MN Field Office. The breakdown of February 1, 2005 stocks by type indicate 8 percent red, 5 percent white and 87 percent russet.

Stocks in Area 1 totaled 2.6 million hundredweight, down 9 percent from 2005. Stocks in Area 2 totaled 6.4 million hundredweight, down 13 percent from 2005.

MINNESOTA FALL POTATO STOCKS

Type	Feb. 1, 2005		Feb. 1, 2006	
	Stocks 2004 Crop (000) Cwt	Percent of Total Stocks	Stocks 2005 Crop (000) Cwt	Percent of Total Stocks
Red	820	8	720	8
White	510	5	450	5
Russet	8,870	87	7,830	87
Total	10,200	100	9,000	100

MINNESOTA FALL POTATO STOCKS BY REGION

Region 1/ MN Area 1	Feb. 1, 2005		Feb. 1, 2006	
	Stocks 2004 Crop (000) Cwt	Percent of Total Stocks	Stocks 2005 Crop (000) Cwt	Percent of Total Stocks
MN Area 1	2,850	28	2,600	29
MN Area 2	7,350	72	6,400	71
State Total	10,200	100	9,000	100

1/ Minnesota Area 1 includes the following counties: Kittson, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Beltrami, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Mahnomen, Norman, Clearwater, Clay, Becker and Wilkin counties. Minnesota Area 2 includes all remaining counties in the State.

Potato Stocks Down 7 Percent from Last Year

The 13 major potato States held 188 million cwt of potatoes in storage February 1, 2006, down 7 percent from last year and 6 percent below February 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 50 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, unchanged from last year.

Disappearance of 185 million cwt of potatoes is down 6 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 18.1 million cwt so far this season, is down 17 percent from last year for comparable States. Processors in the 9 major States have used 96.5 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 4 percent from a year ago and 6 percent below two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 19.5 million cwt of the total processing, down 11 percent from both last year and the same date in 2004.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks on February 1, 2005-2006 ¹

State	Crop of 2004			Crop of 2005		
	Prod	Stocks Feb 1, 2005 ²	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Feb 1, 2006	% of Prod
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CA	3,648	1,800	49	3,240	1,100	34
CO	23,791	13,700	58	22,292	11,900	53
ID	131,970	75,000	57	116,975	65,000	56
ME	19,065	11,100	58	15,736	10,000	64
MI	13,650	4,800	35	13,920	5,100	37
MN	18,920	10,200	54	17,630	9,000	51
MT	3,551	3,350	94	3,434	3,300	96
NE	9,288			8,245	4,000	49
NY	5,184	1,200	23	5,226	1,700	33
ND	26,765	15,300	57	20,500	9,000	44
OH ³	1,080					
OR	19,775	11,800	60	22,023	14,500	66
PA ³	2,640	900	34			
WA	93,810	36,500	39	95,480	40,000	42
WI	30,450	13,600	45	27,880	13,000	47
Other Sts		4,240				
15 Sts ⁴	403,587	203,490	50	372,581	187,600	50

¹ Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2005 totaled 24.7 million cwt.

² Missing stocks combined into "Other Sts".

³ Stock estimates discontinued in 2005.

⁴ 13 States for the 2005 crop.